

SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes August 20, 2012

Present: John Alves, Richard Wallace, Willit Mason, Priscilla Dunn, Neal Abelson, Susan Waddington

Absent: Jim Tusino

Guest: Lisa Roberts

The meeting was called to order by Chair, John Alves at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of July 9, 2012 Public Hearing and Meeting. The minutes were approved by all, except Neal Abelson who did not vote as he did not attend the meeting.

Discussion of Town Clerk's application: Susan will check with the Town Administrator concerning dates for warrant articles. She will also check with Jan Parker to see if the Board of Selectmen has agreed on an amount to contribute for shared costs.

Other applications, if any: Willit asked if the Committee would be willing to ask for a place holder for a possible APR project on land owned by the Cuddigan family on School St. The land has been approved for the restriction and an appraisal will be available in October. It will be in the area of 60 acres and if the project is to go forward, the Committee will need to decide between funding solely with CPA funds or going through bonding. Willit will ask Kelley Whitmore to check into the best way to bond and will also talk to Seekonk Finance Director, Bruce Alexander. Susan will ask the Town Administrator to set up a place marker for this project should we be able to move forward. The Committee unanimously agreed to support a warrant article for the Cuddigan property APR through appropriation or bonding.

Invoice approval: Bills were presented from the Sun Chronicle for our Public Hearing ads (\$154.00) and the Community Preservation Coalition for our annual membership fees (\$1500.00). The Committee unanimously approved payment for both. They will be given to the Finance Director.

Committee membership: John will write a letter to the Housing Authority indicating that we need a member able to attend our meetings. He will also follow through with Parks & Recreation and the Historical Commission where we have no representation.

Round table:

Richard: Information on signage for our projects is in the works.

Willit: How are Open Space trusts funded? To be continued at a future meeting. Willit also mentioned the small photo op and ceremony on South Wheaton St. Wednesday, August 22 to celebrate the Yaghian APR, Seekonk's first.

John: Is the Old Town Hall on any historical register? Answer: the Seekonk Historical Commission. John will check with the Historical Commission to see if an RFP is being prepared for work on the Old Town Hall.

He also mentioned that under new CPA legislation, businesses can also get a \$100,000 exclusion. This is for consideration at a future meeting.

Public comments: Lisa Roberts asked what makes a qualified farm which lead into a discussion of soils and other elements of importance in selecting land for APR projects. She also asked about out the purchase of land for Open Space. Committee members told her of various options including the Conservation Commission and the Seekonk Land Trust.

Next meeting: September 17 at 7:30. Room to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Waddington
Clerk, Seekonk Community Preservation Committee